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Museum Services Board**

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APPENDIX A TO PART 1180

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SOURCE: 48 FR 27728, June 17, 1983, unless otherwise noted.

**Subpart A—General Operating
Support; Conservation Grants**

§ 1180.1 Purpose of museum services program.

The purpose of this program of Federal financial assistance is to ease the financial burden borne by museums as a result of their increasing use by the public and to encourage and assist them to carry out their educational and conservation roles as well as other functions and to modernize their methods and facilities.

§ 1180.2 Scope of this document.

This document establishes rules for the award of grants to museums from funds appropriated under the Museum and Library Services Act including rules governing the eligibility of applicant institutions, the type of assistance which may be provided, requirements which applicants must meet and criteria to be used in judging applications.

[48 FR 27728, June 17, 1983, as amended at 66 FR 47096, Sept. 11, 2001]

§ 1180.3 Definition of museum.

For the purpose of this part:

(a) *Museum means a public or private nonprofit institution which is organized on a permanent basis for essentially educational or aesthetic purposes and which, using a professional staff:*

- (1) Owns or uses tangible objects, either animate or inanimate;
- (2) Cares for these objects; and
- (3) Exhibits them to the general public on a regular basis.

(i) An institution which exhibits objects to the general public for at least 120 days a year shall be deemed to meet this requirement.

(ii) An institution which exhibits objects by appointment may meet this requirement if it can establish, in light of the facts under all the relevant circumstances, that this method of exhibition does not unreasonably restrict the accessibility of the institution's exhibits to the general public.

(b) *Museum* includes (but is not limited to) the following institutions if they satisfy the provisions of this section:

- (1) Aquariums and zoological parks;
- (2) Botanical gardens and arboreta;
- (3) Nature Centers;
- (4) Museums relating to art, history (including historic buildings), natural history, science and technology; and
- (5) Planetariums.

(c) For the purposes of this section, an institution uses a professional staff if it employs at least one staff member, or the fulltime equivalent, whether paid or unpaid primarily engaged in the acquisition, care, or exhibition to the public of objects owned or used by the institution.

(d)(1) Except as set forth in paragraph (d)(2) of this section, an institution exhibits objects to the general public for the purposes of this section if such exhibition is a primary purpose of the institution.

(2) An institution which does not have as a primary purpose the exhibition of objects to the general public but which can demonstrate that it exhibits objects to the general public on a regular basis as a significant, separate, distinct, and continuing portion of its activities, and that it otherwise meets the requirements of this section,

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may be determined to be a museum under this section. In order to establish its eligibility, such an institution must provide information regarding the following:

- (i) The number of staff members devoted to museum functions as described in paragraph (a) of this section.
- (ii) The period of time that such museum functions have been carried out by the institution over the course of the institution's history.
- (iii) Appropriate financial information for such functions presented separately from the financial information of the institution as a whole.
- (iv) The percentage of the institution's total space devoted to such museum functions.
- (v) Such other information as the Director requests.
- (3) The Director uses the information furnished under paragraph (d)(2) of this section in making a determination regarding the eligibility of such an institution under this section.
- (e) For the purpose of this section, an institution exhibits objects to the public if it exhibits the objects through facilities which it owns or operates.

[48 FR 27728, June 17, 1983, as amended at 50 FR 27587, July 5, 1985]

§ 1180.4 Other definitions.

The following other definitions apply in this document:

Act means the Museum and Library Services Act, Public Law 104-208 (20 U.S.C. 9101-9176).

Board means the National Museum Services Board established under Section 204 of the Act.

Collection includes objects owned, used or loaned by a museum as well as those literary, archival and documentary resources specifically required for the study and interpretation of these objects.

Foundation means the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities.

Director means the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Grantee means the recipient of a grant under the Act.

Institute means the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) established under Section 203 of the Act.

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Museum services means services provided by a museum, primarily exhibiting objects to the general public, and including but not limited to preserving and maintaining its collections, and providing educational and other programs to the public through the use of its collections and other resources.

§ 1180.5 Eligibility and burden of proof—Who may apply.

(a) A museum located in any of the fifty States of the Union, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Guam, or the District of Columbia may apply for a grant under the Act.

(b) No museum is eligible to apply for funding available under the Act unless it has provided museum services, including exhibiting objects to the general public on a regular basis, for at least two years prior to application.

(c) A public or private nonprofit agency which is responsible for the operation of a museum may, if necessary, apply on behalf of the museum.

(d) A museum operated by a department or agency of the Federal Government is not eligible to apply.

(e) An applicant has the burden of establishing that it is eligible for assistance under these regulations.

(f) In a given year, a museum that has not received two consecutive General Operating Support awards in the immediately preceding two-year cycles is eligible to apply for General Operating Support.

[50 FR 27588, July 5, 1985, as amended at 60 FR 63964, Dec. 13, 1995]

§ 1180.6 Related institutions.

(a) If two or more institutions are under the common control of one agency or institution or are otherwise organizationally related and apply for assistance under the Act, the Director determines under all the relevant circumstances whether they are separate museums for the purposes of establishing eligibility for assistance under these regulations. See §§ 1180.5 and 1180.9.

(b) IMLS regards the following factors, among others, as showing that a